

# **CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**JUNE 16, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Becky Doberstein (Norris Center, for Don Harris), Diane Ripple, Shirley Wehmeier, Barb Holtz, Sarah Matson, Katie Miller, Alyssa Schroder, Judy Hickey, Amy Bauman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jesús Mireles, Eve Altizer, Kathy Mullooly, Antwayne Robertson, Pete Slesar

Diane Ripple called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sarah Matson made a motion, seconded by Katie Miller, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting.

## **AMERICORPS, CROSSROADS RUNAWAY PROGRAM**

Alyssa Schroeder introduced Peter Sierra and Executive Director Dan Laurent from Crossroads Runaway Program. They are located on Moreland Boulevard and share a building with Parents Place and Children's Society of Wisconsin.

Diane Ripple started introductions of the CAFSAC members in attendance, and thanked Peter and Dan for being there.

Dan stated that he is the historian as he has been with the Youth and Family Project since 1983. He talked about runaway programs and how they evolved in the state and in Waukesha. The state group formed in the late 70's, in Milwaukee and Madison. They soon realized they needed to have more coverage throughout the state, and now all seventy-two counties have services. The program and services have been embraced and are well established in Washington County, but have not been as well received in Waukesha or Ozaukee County. Previously, Children's Service Society was contracted to provide these services in Waukesha County. As they no longer do, it has fallen upon the Youth and Family Project Crossroads Runaway Program. They have been in Waukesha now for two years, working with a limited budget.

Peter Sierra is the Program Coordinator, and had a couple of key points to make. First, providing free services and being not viewed as part of the system are important points to families who are referred to them. They don't need insurance. Another important point is that the program is preventative. Individual and family counseling are provided and as a preventative program, many times their job is crisis intervention. They provide a wide range of services. The age range is from 12 to 19, although he is currently working with a ten-year old client. Even though they are a runaway program, in order to prevent that, they provide many different services and work with a wide array of issues. They really depend on service delivery with AmeriCorps.

Peter related that there is some concern, mostly from school professionals, about the program continuing, likely because they are new, but it's been going very well.

Jesús asked if they would like to be contacted if another agency in the CAFSAC group is working with a family they are also working with. Peter Sierra answered, yes. An exchange of information would be good. Alyssa added that we should make sure we're working toward the same goals. She talked about their 24 hour help line, which is answered by 2-1-1- after 10:00 p.m.

Pete Slesar recalled that the STAR program had a certain number of sessions. Peter Sierra responded that they never set a number. It is very dependant on the individual needs. Dan added that they typically think in terms of 90 days, but that's not rigid. They have worked with kids for years.

Pete Slesar asked about an earlier statement Dan made about some initial resistance they received when beginning in Waukesha County. What was it specifically and where was it coming from? Peter Sierra answered that he believes that the issue is that they are new. Therefore, some people doubt their reliability and staying power. The majority of doubt is from the school district. They have had a successful experience working with children in West Bend during the school day, but that seems to be more difficult in Waukesha. Dan added that this is an old program, but they are basically a new provider to Waukesha.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jesús reported they continue to face challenges with funding in the Birth-3 Program. They are working with Lutheran Social Services to identify services that can be provided and maximizing revenue, insurance, and Medicaid. Birth-3 was not reduced for 2012, but the state grant was reduced by \$50,000. Birth-3 received \$179,000 through stimulus money, which ends July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

Eve Altizer discussed Wisconsin Act 334 – The Coordinated Services Team Initiative Legislation and a summary of significant changes made to 46.56. The name of the program has changed from ISP to “The CST Initiative”. Similarly, names of forms, processes, etc. will also been updated to “CST” language. Children with severe emotional disturbances are required to be a priority target group. There will be expanded coordinating committee membership. Expanded discretionary membership may include vocational & technical schools, regional offices of the department, faith-based community, probation and parole, economic support agencies & Wisconsin Works. Expanded coordinating committee responsibilities may include planning for sustainability, establishing and monitoring policies and procedures, quality assurance, development of an orientation plan for new coordinating committee and family team members, identifying gaps in service, performance of client and partner agency satisfaction surveys, public relations / education.

Eve Altizer discussed the WCDHHS multi-systems work group. Peter Slesar explained that what that group does is determines how to best service kids with multiple service needs. Eve

stated there are a significant number of children and adolescents served within multiple systems of care.

Eve reported that she and other staff have had the opportunity to present at the local Crisis Intervention and Crisis Intervention Partnerships training for law enforcement on the subject of children and mental health crisis.

Wisconsin Family Ties annual Family Fun Day is July 12, 2011.

Partnerships for Children's Mental Health parent support group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Goodwill building in Waukesha. The monthly meetings rotate between open forum and community speakers. Please contact Eve Altizer for additional information.

## **COLLABORATING AGENCIES**

Jesús stated it's been a challenge to gather the information in the "are we teaming" section of our workbook. The idea is to show how we work together. Missy Kueht-Becker was going to direct a group to work on this in more detail, to determine if this works, are we collaborating or do we need to improve. He added that another use for this Excel spreadsheet is to keep staff resources up to date and have current contact information available for our front line staff.

Diane asked for agencies to complete the teaming section if they haven't already. Barb Holtz suggested taking a look at what other agencies they work with who could be added. Diane said it is a work in progress, but is taking shape nicely.

Jesús reminded that Joe Vitale wanted to share the information with his colleagues during budget discussions.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Eve suggested bringing the CompassWisconsin Threshold program in for a presentation. The following is a brief description and contact information for CompassWisconsin Threshold as discussed at this CAFSAC meeting.

CompassWisconsin: Threshold is the doorway for families to apply for children's long-term support (CLTS) services when those families live in Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, or Waukesha counties. Threshold was designed to streamline the application process so that a family only needs to go through a single process to apply for multiple CLTS programs for their child.

CompassWisconsin: Threshold determines eligibility for the following programs:

- Children's Long-Term Support Medicaid (CLTS-MA) Waiver
- CLTS-MA Waiver for Intensive In-Home Services for Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Family Support Program
- Katie Beckett Program-Wisconsin Medicaid
- Community Options Program

**For Families Living in Waukesha County:**

*CompassWisconsin: Threshold Consultant*

Jeffrey Kaus

414-266-6151

Jeff.Kaus@wisconsin.gov

As we ramp up into event season, Katie Miller advised to keep her in mind to provide prizes for games or to share literature at events. She has Frisbees, water bottles, tattoos, etc. available.

Katie talked about the increase in use of social media as a resource and shared contact information for the National Children's Study. She reported that Waukesha is up to 125 babies for the study. They are moving into a different phase right now. Recruiting is slowing down, because they are about two and a half years ahead of the study. Families and women in Waukesha continue to be committed and excited about this program. Only about 10 of 205 families have decided to drop out. Some were due to pregnancy loss or a move from the area.

Barb Holtz reported that the United Way is planning three flash mobs. There is one scheduled next Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. This will be a mini flash mob, meaning they want kids to come. It will be held at Heyer Park. If anyone has kids they want to get involved, they should call the United Way. The kids will receive a free t-shirt. The mini mob will participate in a balloon launch which will be photographed and used in United Way promotional materials. This is a promotion for the United Way and for the Born Learning Trail at Heyer Park. Light refreshments will be served. There will be games and goody bags. She hasn't seen a lot of publicity on this, so she will forward a flyer to the rest of the group not in attendance at this meeting. Katie Miller will put it on their Facebook page.

Jesús asked how many agencies are using Facebook or Twitter. There was discussion about this being a new direction, and about privacy and confidentiality concerns. Diane reported that the Women's Center uses it primarily for donors. It is a great tool, it's free, it is the primary mode of communicating information for the younger generation. Jesús asked if Katie and Barb could give a presentation on Facebook to the group in the future. Katie suggested having the firm that their agency works with come for a presentation, or if the group prefers something more informal, she would be glad to share what she knows.

Barb Holtz motioned to adjourn and Judy Hickey seconded the motion at 9:44 a.m.

Approved on: 7-21-11  
date